

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
SAN FRANCISCO

# RECOMMENDED FAMILY PLAN

A MESSAGE TO THE PEOPLE OF  
SAN FRANCISCO

In these times of international tensions, it is only prudent that the individual and the family plan to meet whatever situation may develop. We do not take out fire insurance because we expect our house or car to be destroyed - we take it out so that should this occur we will mitigate our actual loss. A few hours of preparation and planning can make the difference between survival and personal catastrophe should disaster strike.

Whatever the disaster - natural (like earthquakes), accidental (explosions, for instance), or deliberate (enemy attack), be ready, know what to do for your survival and safety.

Our Civil Defense organization is here to help you in any community emergency but Civil Defense is essentially self-aid when disaster strikes. You must know what to do and be prepared to act. Therefore, I urge that all San Franciscans study the following pages carefully.

Let us identify the dangers, determine how best to meet them, then with confidence and faith meet the future with the same courage and determination that our forefathers have made the hallmark of this nation.

George Christopher, Mayor  
Commander, San Francisco Disaster  
Council and Corps

Revised  
August 3, 1961

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CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

## DISASTER COUNCIL AND CORPS

ROOM 301, HALL OF JUSTICE SAN FRANCISCO 3, CALIFORNIA  
TELEPHONE KL 3-1651

GEORGE CHRISTOPHER, MAYOR  
COMMANDER

A. G. COOK, R.ADM. USN (RET.)  
DIRECTOR

## BASIC INFORMATION

The power of nuclear weapons is indeed tremendous and if you are near the point of impact there is no practicable defense. The size of the totally destroyed area will depend on the size of the weapon used. But no matter what the size there will always be a much larger surrounding area where taking the proper steps will tremendously increase your chances of survival.

A modern steel framed or reinforced concrete building will offer some protection from blast, heat, and radioactivity close to the impact area. As you get further out, less substantial structures become effective shelters.

Fallout is potentially more dangerous to human life than blast and heat for the simple reason that it covers an area perhaps fifteen times larger than that affected by blast and heat. Protective measures against the hazards of fallout are much simpler and more effective than those against blast and heat. All that is needed is material between you and the radioactive dust. Further, except in the immediate vicinity of the explosion, a matter of one to six hours will elapse before the radioactive dust descends, depending on the wind and the distance from the explosion.

Attached is a map showing the Bay Area Danger Zone (Map "A"). San Francisco is a critical target within this area and is considered a most likely zone of attack. The State and Federal Government recommend evacuation of the entire target area should there be advance warning of an impending attack. Unfortunately, most of the facilities for housing and feeding people in California are located in target areas. The State is in the process of organizing support areas but the proper facilities just are not sufficient for the total population and it is highly probable that evacuees will be on their own resources for several days.

We believe that by leaving a critical target area you have improved your chance of survival. We believe that if you succeed in getting completely out of the target area you have improved your chances of survival even more. We therefore advise evacuation on the ALERT signal provided you have made advance preparations.

We have available at Room 301, Hall of Justice, 7th and Bryant Streets, San Francisco, additional information on many aspects of civil defense, such as shelter designs for the home, fallout manuals, lists of first aid and food supplies, etc. These are available free on request.

## RECOMMENDED FAMILY PLAN

IT IS ONLY PRUDENT TO PREPARE FOR POSSIBLE DISASTER

1. Teach each member the action to take in event of attack or warning of impending attack. Assign specific duties and hold family practice drills. Adult members should take a First Aid and Basic Civil Defense Course. Learn the two CD air raid signals. If you plan to evacuate, know the siren signal, where you are going, your route, and means of transportation.
2. Choose the best available shelter in immediate neighborhood for you and your family. If none is available select the strongest part of the interior of your home as a shelter area, out of direct line with doors and windows, and with minimum danger of flying glass and debris. There should be two outside exits. If not, take precaution against possibility of debris blocking the single exit. Equip shelter with first aid kit, flashlight with extra batteries, a whistle, canned food, bottled or canned water, a self-powered radio, and other emergency necessities.  
  
Also, know the best shelter where you work.
3. Reduce fire hazards. Trash piles, rubbish, etc. that accumulate around the home increase the danger of fire.
4. Select a relative or friend in a community outside the DANGER ZONE to act as a clearing point for information on the family. After disaster, register all information about your family with civil defense authorities.
5. Attend civil defense classes. There is no charge or obligation. LEARN NOW! Call KLondike 3-1651 for details.

### EARLY DISPERSAL (No Siren Signal)

Our Government...Federal, State, or Municipal...should they foresee a serious threat of enemy attack, may recommend dispersal (evacuation) several days ahead of time. No siren would sound but information would be given by all public information sources.

Leave city with your family going either to destination you have pre-arranged or to destination designated by civil defense authorities. Dispersal is voluntary. You will probably remain there for some time.

## ALERT SIGNAL

Steady continuous sound of siren for 4 minutes means enemy attack probable. Traffic Plan (Map "B" attached) goes into effect.

In deciding what to do, consider these facts: Is good shelter available? Can we get away quickly? Are we in good health? Are members of the family mature enough to be on their own? Can we feed ourselves for several days? Are we near an exit route? Have we arranged for a place to stay? If the family becomes separated has a meeting place been set?

We recommend:

EVACUATE - if your car is gassed, stocked with food and water, and arrangements made to reunite the family.

TAKE SHELTER - if not prepared.

## TAKE COVER SIGNAL

Warbling tone of 3 minutes duration means attack imminent.

Take best available shelter. Indoors close windows and doors. Draw blinds and draperies. Leave electrical and gas appliances as if you were leaving home for day and going downtown. Tune radio to 640 or 1240. Do not use telephone.

## ATTACK - NO WARNING

(Very brilliant flash or heavy shock)

Drop to floor, get under bed or heavy table. If unavailable, stay on floor against wall, out of line of glass, shielding face and head.

## ACTION AFTER ATTACK

Remain in shelter. Keep house closed tight. Nail blankets or heavy coverings over broken doors or windows. Put a damp handkerchief over nose and mouth to help prevent entry of dust. If exposed in the open after the explosion, change clothing and wash thoroughly all over including the hair. Tune radio to 640 or 1240 for instructions. Don't leave shelter until you are sure your area is safe. Contamination by fallout is possible without visible evidence of moisture or dust.

San Francisco Disaster Council and Corps, Room 301, Hall of Justice  
7th and Bryant Streets, San Francisco 3, Calif., KLondike 3-1651

Mayor George Christopher  
Commander

R.Adm.A.G.Cook, USN (Ret.)  
Director

## OTHER DISASTERS

The San Francisco Disaster Council and Corps plans for your safety not only in event of enemy attack but under other forms of disaster. All of these other types have been experienced in San Francisco or its neighboring areas. Know what to do for your safety.

### Severe Earthquake

When a severe earthquake occurs, take these precautions.

If you're indoors, remain indoors. Protect yourself by crouching under a well built table or by standing in a doorway. Collapsing walls, falling plaster, fixtures, ornaments, pictures, or even a brick fireplace that breaks away from its wall, then is less likely to harm you.

If you're outdoors, avoid standing by ornamentally faced or brick buildings which might fall or drop. If possible, get in a doorway. Or stand in the middle of the street.

### Explosion

"Take Cover" instructions prevail. Don't be a "sightseer". Inquisitive onlookers often gather by hundreds, even thousands. This obstructs fire, police, and medical aid.

### Fire

Prepare Home Fire Plan. Instruct family.

Notify the Fire Dept. immediately. Send alarm from nearest Fire Alarm Box. Dial the Fire Dept. number (Un 1-8020) and give address and exact location of fire. (If you do not know where nearest Fire Alarm Box is, find it NOW before need arises.)

Evacuate all persons in the building. Close all openings, doors, windows, etc. to prevent spread of fire.

Before you open a door, feel it with the palm of your hand. If the door feels hot, the hallway or room is already filled with deadly heated gases. If you are caught in dense smoke, remember that the best air for breathing is nearest the floor.

Do not burden yourself with personal belongings. Many serious casualties result from attempting to save possessions.

Do not re-enter the building for any reason until permitted by the Fire Dept.

"IT IS BETTER TO LIGHT ONE CANDLE THAN TO CURSE THE DARKNESS"

(Map "A")



CIVIL DEFENSE

(Map "B")

TRAFFIC PATTERN

(Effective on Sounding of  
 "Alert" Siren Signal)

